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TAGS: [SENV](#) [EAID](#) [EAGR](#) [ETRD](#) [EINV](#) [BTIO](#) [BE](#)  
SUBJECT: BELGIUM: RESPONSE TO LACEY ACT DEMARCHE

REF: 2008 STATE 126654

¶1. Post delivered the Lacey Act demarche on December 11, 2008. On March 26, 2009, the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) informed the Embassy via email that the Government of Belgium appreciated the opportunity to comment on the implementation of the revised Lacey Act provisions, and welcomed the initiative of the US Administration to combat illegal logging. The MFA's note also noted GOB concerns that the first version of the revised Lacey Act could harm trade unnecessarily, however, and that the scope of the declaration requirements was extremely wide, as it could potentially cover 80 of the 97 chapters of the Harmonised Tariff Schedule. The revised version is clearly an improvement, the MFA stated. Belgium is still analyzing the impact of some provisions, the Belgian authorities will study very carefully any further change proposed to the legislation in the future, the MFA said.

¶2. Post will report any additional comments from Belgian authorities.  
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